

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A colored molding composition made from polyacetal copolymer, wherein the polyacetal copolymer ~~essentially consists~~ **consisting essentially of** oxymethylene units and oxyethylene units, and strong protonic acid and/or a derivative of a strong protonic acid was used as initiator during preparation of the polyacetal copolymer, **and a colorant**, and the emission of formaldehyde from the colored molding composition is lower than from a molding composition for which the polyacetal copolymer was prepared using a Lewis acid as initiator.
2. (original) The molding composition as claimed in claim 1, which comprises from 0.1 to 3.0% by weight of colorants selected from the group consisting of white pigments, black pigments, and color pigments.
3. (original) The molding composition as claimed in claim 2, wherein the colorants carry a coating of an alkali metal salt of a fatty acid having at least 12 carbon atoms.
- 4-10. (cancelled)
11. (previously presented) The molding composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyacetal copolymer comprises from 0.1 to 10 mol% of oxyethylene units.
12. (Currently amended) The molding composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the formaldehyde emission, determined on test specimens **in accordance with the German Automotive Industry Recommendation No. 275 (VDA 275)** ~~to VDA-275~~, is not more than 60% of the formaldehyde emission of a colored molding composition for which the polyacetal copolymer was prepared using BF₃ as the initiator.

13. (Currently amended) The molding composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the formaldehyde emission, determined on test specimens in accordance with the German Automotive Industry Recommendation No. 275 (VDA 275)~~to VDA-275~~, is not more than 20 mg/kg.
14. (previously presented) The molding composition as claimed in claim 1, which further comprises from 0.1 to 10% by weight of stabilizers and auxiliaries.
15. (Currently amended) A process to prepare a molding composition which comprises preparing a polyacetal copolymer which ~~consists essentially~~ consisting essentially of oxymethylene units and oxyethylene units, using trifluoromethanesulfonic acid and/or a derivative of trifluoromethanesulfonic acid as an initiator, mixing the polyacetal copolymer with at least one colorant selected from the group consisting of white pigments, black pigments and color pigments, and obtaining a colored polyacetal molding composition whose emission of formaldehyde is lower than from a molding composition for which the polyacetal copolymer was prepared using a Lewis acid as an initiator.
16. (previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 15, wherein said colorant is in an amount from 0.1 to 3.0% by weight.
17. (previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein the colorant carries a coating of an alkali metal salt of a fatty acid having at least 12 carbon atoms.
18. (previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the polyacetal copolymer comprises from 0.1 to 10 mol% of oxyethylene units.

19. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the formaldehyde emission, determined on test specimens in accordance with the German Automotive Industry Recommendation No. 275 (VDA 275)~~to VDA-275~~, is not more than 60% of the formaldehyde emission of a colored molding composition for which the polyacetal copolymer was prepared using BF_3 as initiator.
20. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the formaldehyde emission, determined on test specimens in accordance with the German Automotive Industry Recommendation No. 275 (VDA 275)~~to VDA-275~~, is not more than 20 mg/kg.
21. (previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 15, which further comprises from 0.1 to 10% by weight of stabilizers and auxiliaries.
22. (previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein the polyacetal copolymer comprises from 1.0 to 2.5 mol% of oxyethylene units.
23. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the formaldehyde emission, determined on test specimens in accordance with the German Automotive Industry Recommendation No. 275 (VDA 275)~~to VDA-275~~, is not more than 50% of the formaldehyde emission of a colored molding composition for which the polyacetal copolymer was prepared using BF_3 as the initiator.
24. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein the formaldehyde emission, determined on test specimens in accordance with the German Automotive Industry Recommendation No. 275 (VDA 275)~~to VDA-275~~, is less than 10 mg/kg.
25. (previously presented) A process for reducing the formaldehyde emission of colored molding compositions made from polyacetal copolymer, which comprises preparing a

polyacetal copolymer consisting essentially of oxymethylene units and oxyethylene units, using trifluoromethanesulfonic acid and/or a derivative of trifluoromethanesulfonic acid as an initiator, mixing the polyacetal copolymer with at least one colorant selected from the group consisting of white pigments, black pigments and color pigments, and obtaining a colored polyacetal molding composition whose emission of formaldehyde is lower than from a molding composition for which the polyacetal copolymer was prepared using a Lewis acid as initiator.

26. (previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 25, wherein when the initiator is added in a solvent.